

Their fallen cones scattered at the edge
 Calm, suspended from the world and time
 It observes the preparations undisturbed.
 Somewhere near, they'll build a stage
 For politicians, veterans, other dignitaries.
 They'll have their say, then wing their way,
 Adding little, detracting nothing.
 Fewer seats, more empty chairs,
 This commemoration.
 I'd rather wait within the esplanade of trees,
 Defer the grid of graves behind me,
 Lift a pine cone from the path,
 Roll it in my hand,
 Smell its earth and resin tar,
 Gaze across the cliff
 Beyond the beach,
 Drift the moment,
 Delay the turn.
 A weepy rain is in the air,
 But I can hear the hush press on my back,
 The quiet murmur of ten thousand
 Crosses sprung from planted souls,
 They no longer scream.
 The gentle yet relentless passage of these
 sixty years
 Does not diminish any sacrifice; it has re-
 moved the sting.
 Wounds have eased, their pains appeased.
 Time deftly folds the space between those
 lost and left,
 Eventually to wrap them all in common
 thought,
 Collected minds of how this place was
 wrought
 Wrap us
 In the mists creeping up the slopes,
 Seeping through the burial ground.
 Make free wind stall, and pine cone fall.
 Let no shadow touch the mall.
 The Channel's rough today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Georgia for his excellent works. Once again, he has shown he is one of the most eloquent Members of this body, if not the most eloquent. We are going to miss him. He still has a lot to do between now and the end of this session, but he has certainly done yeoman's service here. His tribute to those soldiers who were there on that special day many years ago is valuable to us all.

Mr. President, I had the opportunity to accompany former Senator Phil Gramm to Pointe du Hoc in Normandy a few years ago. Tears were in his eyes when he showed us exactly where the Texans went up the hill at Pointe du Hoc. It was an incredible achievement.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached statement from the Office of Compliance be printed in the RECORD today pursuant to section 304(a) of the Con-

gressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1383(a)).

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
 OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,
 Washington, DC, June 16, 2004.

Hon. TED STEVENS,
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate,
 Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: This transmittal letter supersedes the transmittal letter of June 15, 2004.

Section 303(a) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 ("Act"), 2 U.S.C. 1383(a), the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance shall, "subject to the approval of the Board [of Directors of the Office of Compliance], adopt rules governing the procedures of the Office, including the procedures of hearing officers, which shall be submitted for publication in the Congressional Record. The rules may be amended in the same manner." The Executive Director and Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance are transmitting herewith the enclosed Amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance for publication in both the House and Senate versions of the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses of Congress are in session following this transmittal. See 303(b) of the Act, 2 U.S.C. 1383(b).

These amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance shall be deemed adopted by the Executive Director with the approval of the Board of Directors on the date of publication of this Notice of Adoption of Amendments to Procedural Rules on both the House and Senate versions of the Congressional Record.

Any inquiries regarding this Notice should be addressed to the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, 110 2nd Street, SE., Room LA-200, Washington, DC 20540; 202-724-9250, TDD 202-426-1912.

Sincerely,

SUSAN S. ROBFOGEL,
*Chair of the Board of
 Directors.*

WILLIAM W. THOMPSON II,
Executive Director.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO PROCEDURAL RULES

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

On September 4, 2003, a Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance was published in the Congressional Record at S11110, and H7944. As specified by the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 ("Act") at Section 303(b) (2 U.S.C. 1384(b)), a 30 day period for comments from interested parties ensued. In response, the Office received a number of comments regarding the proposed amendments.

At the request of a commenter, for good reason shown, the Board of Directors extended the 30 day comment period until October 20, 2003. The extension of the comment period was published in the Congressional Record on October 2, 2003 at H9209 and S12361.

On October 15, 2003, an announcement that the Board of Directors intended to hold a hearing on December 2, 2003 regarding the proposed procedural rule amendments was published in the Congressional Record at H9475 and S12599. On November 21, 2003, a Notice of the cancellation of the December 2, 2003 hearing was published in the Congressional Record at S15394 and H12304.

On February 26, 2004, the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance caused a Second Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Rules to be published in the Congressional Record at H693 and S1671. The

Second Notice included changes to the initial proposed amendments, together with a brief discussion of each proposed amendment, and afforded interested parties another opportunity to comment on these proposed amendments. (The Second Notice was also published in the House version of the Congressional Record on February 24, 2004. However, because the Senate did not publish the Second Notice on that date, the Second Notice was published on February 26, 2004.)

The comment period for the Second Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Rules ended on March 25, 2004. The Board received a number of additional comments regarding the proposed amendments.

The Executive Director and the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance have reviewed all comments received regarding the Notice and the Second Notice, have made certain additional changes to the proposed amendments *inter alia* in response thereto, and herewith issue the final Amendments to the Procedural Rules as authorized by section 303(b) of the Act, which states in part: "Rules shall be considered issued by the Executive Director as of the date on which they are published in the Congressional Record." See 2 U.S.C. 1383(b).

The complete existing Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance may be found on the Office's web site: www.compliance.gov.

Supplementary Information: The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), PL 104-1, was enacted into law on January 23, 1995. The CAA applies the rights and protections of 11 federal labor and employment statutes to covered employees and employing offices within the Legislative Branch of Government. Section 301 of the CAA (2 U.S.C. 1381) establishes the Office of Compliance as an independent office within that Branch. Section 303 (2 U.S.C. 1383) directs that the Executive Director, as the Chief Operating Officer of the agency, adopt rules of procedure governing the Office of Compliance, subject to approval by the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance. The rules of procedure generally establish the process by which alleged violations of the laws made applicable to the Legislative Branch under the CAA will be considered and resolved. The rules include procedures for counseling, mediation, and election between filing an administrative complaint with the Office of Compliance or filing a civil action in U.S. District Court. The rules also include the procedures for processing Occupational Safety and Health investigations and enforcement, as well as the process for the conduct of administrative hearings held as the result of the filing of an administrative complaint under all of the statutes applied by the Act, and for appeals of a decision by a hearing officer to the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance, and for the filing of an appeal of a decision by the Board of Directors to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The rules also contain other matters of general applicability to the dispute resolution process and to the operation of the Office of Compliance.

These amendments to the Rules of Procedures are the result of the experience of the Office in processing disputes under the CAA during the period since the original adoption of these rules in 1995.

HOW TO READ THE AMENDMENTS

The text of the amendments shows changes to the preexisting text of the Procedural Rules as follows: [deletions within italicized brackets], and added text in italicized bold. Only subsections of the rules which include amendments are reproduced in this NOTICE. The insertion of a series of small dots (. . . .) indicates additional, unamended text within a section has not been reproduced in this document. The insertion of a series of stars (* * * *) indicates that the